



MINUTES

June 12-13, 2013

Danville, Virginia

Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History

Members Present: Lisa Alderman, Charles Ellis, Dr. Gwendolyn Everett, Evelia Porto Gonzalez, Sharron Kitchen Miller, Tina Lea, Marcia Neuhaus Speck, Ann Edwards Rust, Ann Bondurant Trinkle, Deborah Wyld

Members Not Present: Willie Dell, Pat Perry, Marcia Thalhimer

Staff Present: Foster Billingsley, Tiffany Glass Ferreira, Cathy Welborn, Jenny Wortham,

Wednesday, June 12, 2013 - Deborah Wyld, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:15 am

Foster Billingsley announced that Pat Perry from Norfolk submitted her resignation from the Commission board due to time constraints and other obligations.

Lisa Alderman made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2013 Commission meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Foster Billingsley reviewed the Commission's 2013-2014 grants / administrative budget.

Area I General Operating Support Grants:

Lisa Alderman, who attended the Area I panel meeting, thought the panelists were well informed. The grant applications were better written this year.

The Crooked Road: This is the first year that this organization applied for a General Operating Support grant. The Commission does not award first time applicants a Priority 1 ranking.

Ann Edwards Rust made a motion to move The Crooked Road from Priority 1 to Priority 2. The motion was seconded. Two Commissioners opposed the motion. The motion was approved.

Tina Lea made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the remaining Area I General Operating Support applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area I Project Grants:

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on the Area I Project Grant applications.

Charles Ellis made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the Area I Project Grant applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area II General Operating Support Grants:

Charles Ellis, who attended the Area II panel meeting, thought the panelists were well prepared and thoughtful in its decisions.

Community Arts Center Foundation / The Prizery: This organization is struggling financially. It is at a crossroads with its management. The organization did not submit its 2011-2012 General Operating Support final report by the June 1st deadline and did not receive the final payment.

The 2013-2014 General Operating Support grant award will be divided into three payments.

Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History: This organization is important to the Danville community which is economically stressed. The organization has a strong board. The organization is making changes and moving forward with a good business plan.

Charles Ellis made a motion to move the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History to Priority 1 from Priority 1. The motion was not seconded. The motion was not approved.

Ellington Fellowship Playhouse: This organization did not submit its 2011-2012 General Operating Support final report and did not receive its final payment. Its programming for the upcoming season was not been booked at the time of the panel meeting.

Marcia Speck made a motion to move Ellington Fellowship Playhouse to Priority 2 from Priority 1. The motion was seconded. One Commissioner opposed. The motion was approved.

Ann Bondurant Trinkle made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the remaining Area II General Operating Support applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area II Project Grants:

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on the Area II Project Grant applications.

Ann Edwards Rust made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the Area II Project Grant applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area III General Operating Support Grants:

Ann Bondurant Trinkle, who attended the Area III panel meeting, thought the panelists were thorough and concise.

Alleghany Highlands Arts and Crafts Center: The Executive Director of the Alleghany Highlands Arts and Crafts Center attended the Area III panel meeting and contacted Ann Bondurant Trinkle to discuss the panel comments. The Executive Director addressed many of the panelists concerns. The application did not accurately reflect what was happening with the organization.

Ann Bondurant Trinkle made a motion to move Alleghany Highlands Arts and Crafts Center to Priority 1 from Priority 2. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Ann Bondurant Trinkle made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the remaining Area III General Operating Support applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area III Project Grants:

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on the Area III Project Grant applications.

Ann Bondurant Trinkle made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the Area III Project Grant applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area IVA General Operating Support Grants:

Marcia Neuhaus Speck, who attended the Area IVA panel meeting, thought the panelists were terrific with strong management backgrounds.

Lorton Arts Foundation: Some of the Commissioners stated that this organization's application was confusing. The President / CEO and Development Director with Lorton Arts Foundation met with Marcia Neuhaus Speck and Dr. Gwendolyn Everett. The organization has a complicated structure that is legislatively mandated. Its bank negotiations on the bond debt are moving forward. The organization has developed a partnership with George Mason University. Lorton Arts Foundation has leased a building to an outside arts organization that will renovate the building. It has strong community partnerships. The organization is in a much better place than it was last year. \$ 3.3 million of the organization's debt was forgiven by Fairfax County.

Ann Bondurant Trinkle made a motion to move Lorton Arts Foundation to Priority 1 from Priority 2, with the grant award divided into three payments. The motion was seconded and motion was approved. Ann Edwards Rust recused from this vote.

Sharron Kitchen Miller made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the remaining Area IVA General Operating Support applications. The motion was seconded and motion was approved. Ann Edwards Rust recused from voting on Elden Street Players and Lorton Arts Foundation. Dr. Gwendolyn Everett recused from voting on the Arts Council of Fairfax County.

Area IVA Project Grants:

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on the Area IVA Project Grant applications.

Ann Edwards Rust made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the Area IVA Project Grant applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area IVB General Operating Support Grants:

Ann Rust, who attended the Area IVB panel meeting, thought the panelists were well prepared and collegial.

Loudoun Symphony Orchestra: The organization has eliminated its Executive Director and Operating Manager's positions to cut its operating costs. The 2013-2014 General Operating Support grant award will be divided into three payments.

Wayside Foundation for the Arts: This organization has had financial issues for many years. The management of this organization has not taken sufficient steps to address its mounting debt. The 2013-2014 General Operating Support grant award will be divided into three payments.

Sharron Kitchen Miller made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the Area IVA General Operating Support applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area IVB Project Grants:

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on the Area IVB Project Grant applications.

Ann Edwards Rust made a motion to move Riverside Foundation of the Performing Arts to Priority 1 from Priority 2. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Lisa Alderman made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the remaining Area IVB Project Grant applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area V General Operating Support Grants:

Marcia Thalhimer, who attended the Area V panel meeting, thought the panel was strong with diverse opinions.

Studio Two Three: This organization's rented facilities are not fully ADA compliant. The grant award will not be made until the organization's facilities are ADA compliant.

Sycamore Rouge: The Commission staff was notified before the Commission meeting that Sycamore Rouge's Artistic / Managing Director resigned and the board dissolved the organization. The grant is ineligible for funding.

Charles Ellis made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the Area V General Operating Support applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area V Project Grants:

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on the Area V Project Grant applications.

Marcia Neuhaus Speck made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the Area V Project Grant applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

AREA VI GOS

Deborah Wyld, who attended the Area VI panel meeting, thought it did well addressing the artistic quality of the grantees.

Community Alliance for the Performing Arts Fund: The Executive Director of the Community Alliance for the Performing Arts Fund submitted an appeal letter asking that the Commission move the Priority ranking to Priority 1 from Priority 2. The letter did not appropriately address the panelists and Commission's continuing concerns. The letter gave the Commissioners additional concerns about the organization and its leadership.

Dr. Gwendolyn Everett made a motion to move Community Alliance for the Performing Arts Fund to Priority 3 from Priority 2. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Soundscapes: Lisa Alderman made a motion to move Soundscapes to Priority 2 from Priority 1. The motion was seconded. Nine Commissioners opposed the motion. The motion was not approved.

Tina Lea made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the remaining Area VI General Operating Support applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Area VI Project Grants:

Cathy Welborn presented the panel and staff recommendations on the Area VI Project Grant applications.

Eastern Virginia Brass: Ann Edwards Rust made a motion to fund Eastern Virginia Brass at \$1,850. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Sharron Kitchen Miller made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the remaining Area VI Project Grant applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Major Arts Institution's General Operating Support Grants:

No Commissioners were present at the Major Arts Institution's General Operating Support panel meeting.

Virginia Opera Association: The organization has had financial issues for several years. Deborah Wyld spoke with the Opera's President / CEO about the organization's budget and income projections. Additional financial information was submitted before the Commission meeting. The artistic quality has remained high despite the organization's financial issues. The Commission has concerns whether or not that Virginia Opera's plan to reduce its debt will work.

Marcia Neuhaus Speck made a motion to move Virginia Opera Association to Priority 1.5 from Priority 1. The organization will be reviewed in 2014 by the Majors panel. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Deborah Wyld adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm for the day.

Thursday, June 13, 2013 - Deborah Wyld, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:09 am.

Synetic Theater: This organization has high artistic quality. Its administration is not as strong as the artistic quality. This is a unique theatre company doing work that is not being done by any other theatre company in the state. There have been no changes since last year. The organization addressed many of the panelist's concerns from last year.

Ann Edwards Rust made a motion to move Synetic Theatre to Priority 1 from Priority 2. The organization will be reviewed in 2014 by the Area IVA panel. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Charles Ellis made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the remaining Major Arts Institution's General Operating Support Grant applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

General Operating Support Short Grants: Sharron Kitchen Miller made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the General Operating Support Short Grant applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously

Special Recognition Award: Tina Lea made a motion to approve the \$5,000 Special Recognition Award to the Blue Ridge Institute. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Local Government Challenge Grants:

Prince George County: This is a first time grant applicant. The original application included an ineligible sub-grantee / project. The County resubmitted the application with the matching funds going to the Friends Burrowsville School arts program.

Tina Lea made a motion to accept Prince George County's \$5,000 local government challenge grant. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Charles Ellis made a motion to approve the remaining Local Government Challenge Grant applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Artists in Education Grants:

Deborah Wyld attended the Artists in Education panel meeting.

Mathew Whaley Elementary School: (After School and Summer Arts Programs) The grant application did not reflect the program well. This school is reaching out to an underserved population. The Commission has funded the same program under the Project Grant category. Sharron Kitchen Miller and Deborah Wyld have attended performances at Mathew Whaley Elementary School and the quality of the instruction is on par with any private dance studio.

Sharron Kitchen Miller made a motion to fund Mathew Whaley Elementary School at \$3,963. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Wharton Memorial Foundation: The application was missing the bios of the key artists doing the summer arts program. The Commissioners agreed by consensus to award partial funding to the Wharton Memorial Foundation. Payment will not be made until the organization provides the Commission staff with the missing information.

Evelia Porto Gonzalez made a motion to approve the remaining Artists in Education Grant applications. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

2013-2014 Grants Budget: Foster Billingsley reviewed the 2013-2014 grants budget. The Commission received an additional \$100,000 from the General Assembly for fiscal year 2013-2014. These funds are earmarked for the Cultural / Arts Tourism Marketing Program and the Commission's Tour Directory to bring artists / ensembles to rural areas of the state. The Commission staff recommends that \$60,000 goes to the Tour Directory to bring artists / ensembles to rural areas of the state and \$40,000 goes to the Cultural / Arts Tourism Marketing Program.

Tina Lea made a motion to approve the 2013-2014 Grants Budget with the changes resulting from Commission's actions on the grant applications and the staff's recommendations for the additional \$100,000. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

2013-2015 Virginia Commission for the Arts Strategic Plan: Ann Edwards Rust made a motion to approve the 2013-2015 Virginia Commission for the Arts Strategic Plan. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Updates:

Vacant Position: Foster Billingsley announced that Secretary Fornash approved the Commission's request to hire a replacement Administrative Assistant / Event Planner. The job will be posted in July with the position being filled by August 2013.

Tour Directory Artists / Ensembles to Tour In Rural Areas: Ann Edwards Rust made a motion to make the maximum amount that a presenter can apply for under this program is \$2,500. This is the maximum that an artist or presenter can be awarded. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

New Business: Foster Billingsley provided next year's Commission meeting dates and locations.

FALL:

Thursday, October 3, 2013

9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Lorton, Virginia

WINTER:

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Charlottesville, Virginia

SPRING:

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Blacksburg, Virginia

SUMMER:

Wednesday & Thursday June 11 – 12, 2014

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. each day

Richmond, Virginia

Report of the Nominating Committee:

Nominating Committee: Dr. Gwendolyn Everett, Ann Edwards Rust, Deborah Wyld

The Nominating Committee recommended the following slate of officers for 2013-2104.

Chair: Lisa Alderman

Vice Chair: Marcia Neuhaus Speck

Secretary: Sharron Kitchen Miller

Deborah Wyld asked if there were other nominations from the floor. There being none, the nominations were closed. Ann Bondurant Trinkle made a motion to approve the slate of officers as put forward by the Nominating Committee. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.